IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims are listed below for the convenience of the Examiner. No changes have been made. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method for identifying hierarchically structured objects characterized by identifiers, each object having an environment in which it is known, said method comprising:

modeling the environment of each object by a context of the identifiers of the objects within the environment, where the identifiers of the objects within each environment are obligatory unique, but are allowed to be non-unique relative to other objects within different environments, and

storing the contexts of each environment to form a plurality of indirection levels.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising if a container object that contains other objects exists, storing the contexts of the other objects with the container object.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising: storing, when the container object contains other container objects, the contexts in a lowest possible container object among the hierarchically structured objects.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising: storing connections between the objects in the form of monikers.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the contexts are provided for managing the identifiers of the objects for object operations including at least one of moving, copying and renaming, without global, central management functions being provided.

20. (canceled)